

CONTACT:

Jennifer Pennell, MPH, CHES
Health Education Specialist II
800-472-5609
San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program
606 E. Mill St., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0003

May 25, 2006**PHD #06-27****For release – June 2006**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
“JUNE IS ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH!”

The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control (ACC) Program and the shelters that they operate, which include the Big Bear and Devore facilities, are partnering with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and Fresh Step litter to celebrate June as Adopt a Shelter Cat Month. This event is designed to bring attention to the wonderful cats and kittens available for adoption at shelters nationwide. To help in the promotion of this event, the ASPCA conducted a survey of more than 5,900 cat owners from across the United States.

The survey revealed some interesting facts about the behavior of cats as well as the behavior of their owners. Of the almost 6,000 respondents to the survey, more than half (56%) reported that they have chosen their cat over a loved one in an argument, with 52% stating that they consider their cat the most important member of their family. A little less than half of the respondents (46%) reported that they have been able to teach their cat a trick, while 23% said that they tried, but to no avail.

Not surprisingly, more than two-thirds of respondents (78%) buy their cat presents on the holidays. A little more than half of the respondents (53%) don't bother to wait for the holidays, and purchase their cats a toy or treat at least once a month. Forty-four percent of respondents have between three and five cats in their home, while one third (33%) live with one or two cats. Lastly, 34% reported spending over \$500 per year on their cat.

“Spring and summer are the times of year when animal shelters are often over-flowing with cats of all ages, sizes, and colors,” said Brian Cronin, ACC Program Manager. “We want to help raise awareness of this month is a fun way in order to bring home the reality that these cats need safe and loving homes. By adopting a feline friend, not only are you giving a shelter cat a second chance, but you will also have a lifelong companion who will bring many years of love and devotion to your family.”

So if you are looking to add a new four-legged, fluffy friend to your family we would like to encourage you to visit your local animal shelter and adopt one of the many homeless cats who are just waiting to shower you with affection. You can even visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov and actually see all of the wonderful kitties that we have! For more information please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609. Thank you.